

Colorado

Workforce Development Council

SWIS Committee Meeting Summary
Colorado Department of Local Affairs
Division of Housing Conference Room

May 11, 2006
10:00am – 12:00pm

In Attendance

Members:

Paula Butcher (proxy for Peggy Herbertson), Walt Speckman, Mark Warne, Doug Glynn, Andrea Powner, Samantha O'Neill-Dunbar, Tom Looft

Others:

Nina Holland, Alex Hall, Marilyn Quinn

Staff of the Workforce Development Council:

Booker T. Graves, Steve Wright, Glenn Little, Lee Carter

Meeting

I. Welcome and Introductions – Booker T. Graves

Booker is leading the meeting in place of Peggy, who is traveling, and Nancy, who is ill.

Introductions were made around the table, Mary Riotte will be attending in place of Andrea Powner for Colorado Works from now on.

Pat Buys retired last year, and Nancy Stahoviak has been ill for the past two years. Nancy is resigning from the Council and the SWIS Committee due to the difficulty in attending meetings in person, as she is confined to a wheelchair. She will remain the Routt County Commissioner.

II. Naming of Business Recognition Awards – Booker T. Graves

Booker gave an overview of the CIMS awards and an explanation of the two-tier ILSD awards which recognizes businesses that partner with workforce centers and agencies that are part of the community and partner with centers. A recommendation was made at the last

Council meeting in the Fall that businesses to be recognized should be awarded at community events. This exposes the workforce system to what events are taking place in the community.

Booker believes that the loss of Pat Buys and Nancy Stahoviak has been significant to the workforce system and would like to have a discussion about naming the CIMS awards after them to honor their efforts in influencing the workforce system:

Walt moves approval of naming the awards after Pat Buys and Nancy Stahoviak and the motion is seconded.

There is a brief discussion on the actual naming: Pat Buys Business Recognition Award and Nancy Stahoviak Agency Partner Award. Maybe the entire name should not be on the award, but in the description. Booker will come up with verbage and submit for approval to the Committee. Perhaps a special presentation should be made the first time that they are presented with the new name.

The motion passed unanimously.

Implementation: Pat may be available to present the first award; Nancy could be filmed. Ask each individual how they would like their name used on the award.

III. WIA and WP Allocations – Tom Looft

The US DOL only distributed 90% of funds available. One of the factors determining the level of funds had to be changed due to census data from 2000. Communities with colleges were counted which skewed the unemployment rate. So, they are using the 1990 data instead which is still inaccurate but is better than the 2000 data. Software will be provided by BLS who certifies this data and then the US DOL will have the final calculations. The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) will get no less than what the report states, although this number is not final. The Wagner-Peyser (WP) numbers are final. Final numbers will be released in August, meaning that there could be additional money for WIA.

CDLE and OWD need to make a decision on the WIA Discretionary Funds. In the past, there has always been money for special projects in the regions. Barb Kirkmeyer, Tom Looft, Elise Lowe-Vaughn, and Booker Graves need to meet to discuss what the money will be used for.

Walt moved approval of the WP allocation formula, it was seconded, and approved unanimously.

Walt moved approval of the WIA allocation formula subjective to final numbers in August, it was seconded, and approved unanimously.

IV. Job Vacancy Survey – Booker T. Graves and Alex Hall

There has been much discussion surrounding the Job Vacancy Survey (JVS). In line with what Tom commented on earlier regarding saving and spending money, there should be further discussion on the JVS as it represents a large chunk of money. This Committee adopted the group that looked at the JVS and there hasn't been a great deal of feedback. The JVS was created during a different set of circumstances and things have changed. A sizable amount of money is being spent and there hasn't been a great deal of approval for what has come out of it. It's good data and nice to have, but do we need this? The Committee should discuss the need for the JVS and get input on how we use it.

Alex – The cost of the JVS was reduced by \$300K last year (occupation data was eliminated). There are already staffing patterns within LMI that can answer the question of where jobs are and what the demand is. There are a lot of employers that don't use the workforce centers and there is a \$2000-\$3000 cost per workforce center. There are good times and bad times to end a program; this would be a good time if it is decided to end.

Walt recommends approval of staff recommendation, motion was seconded, and approved.

V. Update on grants – Booker T. Graves

Booker reviewed updates on grant projects that the SWIS Committee oversees.

There are concerns about the Casino Management Training Project. Robin, at CDLE, has been working with Tri-County closely. Joe Collins is leaving the state (he was a big champion of the project). There have been delays due to a death and transfer of the project lead. Tri-County has refocused their internal monitoring efforts on their projects. This project is being monitored monthly. Mary Russell is now the Acting Director since Joyce Benson-Fox is no longer with Tri-County and Dani Crane is now the WIA Manager.

VI. Replacement of Co-Chair – Booker T. Graves

This is a question for the next meeting.

We need a new Co-Chair to serve with Peggy and lead this committee. Where should this person come from? It works well to have an operator and a county commissioner or is there a different perspective to consider?

Booker – Nancy will make a recommendation to replace her with another rural county commissioner. That is the direction we would like to head in. The Committee should think about this and make a recommendation at the next meeting.

Walt – Booker should try to recruit another rural county commissioner and if that doesn't work, come back to the Committee.

VII. CIMS – Booker T. Graves

Mary Hillsman has issued instructions and executive summaries to the local workforce boards. There are two additional opportunities for funding being introduced under the incentive program. One will be around marketing and the BOAM Committee is working on a certification. There should be three to five indicators sent out to the locals by the end of June. The BOAM Committee wants the Colorado Workforce Center brand to be used across the state.

The CWDC wants to encourage commercials like the ones that are being done in the Upper Arkansas region.

We need to keep the brand going. There is over 10% penetration right now.

Also, we will be including disabilities in the CIMS program for each region (Navigator, training, etc). OWD will reissue the specifics to the Committee. More money will go into the BOAM Committee certificates and disability training.

VIII. Local Board Certification – Booker T. Graves

CSW has been asked to look at how local workforce boards deal with certification. It is time for new workforce board certifications to take

place. CSW is doing research about what is being done about certification. OWD will send the results of the research that has been done. Recertification is coming and discussion needs to occur at the next SWIS Committee meeting. There needs to be consistency and logic.

Nina – There is a running theme that a planning process should occur along with the certification process. We are currently within the planning process.

IX. Strategic Planning

There were three areas of focus for SWIS Committee planning.

There were several ideas to implement tactics to accomplish the overriding goals of the Executive Committee.

We need to prioritize the SWIS Committee tactics under each strategy, especially as grants are distributed.

Review of Tactics

Is there an order that should be implemented and are there changes that should be made?

Tactic One:

Paula – Staff Certification should be number one, it covers the first four tactics listed.

Tom – Items five and six can be combined into one activity, and seven would grow out of that.

Booker – Certification is about supporting the workforce development professionals. This program is working to align with a bigger credentialing program, it needs to tie into a larger program to have any impact.

Tom – There should be Economic Development certification, not a workforce development certification.

Booker – They have nothing about workforce development in their certification.

Paula – Are we looking for a certification for workforce development professionals?

Nina – We need to be sure to take this credentialing to the next step.

Booker – The certification should support the direction that Elise is going. The workforce system really needs a comprehensive staff development direction and a partnership with economic development. The Committee has a consensus around that.

Tactic Two:

Tom – Combine the first five tactics.

Samantha – The next three can be linked together, through the assessment project that Elise is working on.

Tactic Three:

Booker – Hope that the Committee supports the Coalition on Homelessness. It hasn't set a clear direction yet. The co-chair of the coalition wants definitive timelines to accomplish goals.

The top three tactics can be combined under the homelessness initiative.

Tom is working toward the fourth tactic.

There is a provision in the contract with CSW to work with local workforce boards. Booker will issue a letter to the Directors on how to access the services that can be provided. Technical assistance should come from a Director or a Monitor (CDLE).

Booker will have start dates for the tactics at the next meeting (timelines starting July 1).

X. Misc.

Nina – Local plans will not be ready by the next SWIS Committee meeting.

Booker – The SWIS Committee gives authority to CDLE and OWD to approve the final local two-year plans upon their completion so as not to slow the process of implementation.

Tom – They're being only conditionally approved right now because they will have to be modified by August.

Booker – Bring the proposal to the June meeting. The discretionary funding meeting should have occurred by then and the Committee can approve it at that time.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10pm.